

WINTER/SPRING 2009



Commercial News

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SPOTLIGHT

**“U.S. Ambassador to The Bahamas
Ned L. Siegel and Mrs. Stephanie Siegel
concluded their tenure on
January 20, 2009”
Nassau, Bahamas**



On January 20, 2009, His Excellency Ned L. Siegel and Mrs. Stephanie Siegel departed The Bahamas, ending his tenure as the twelfth United States Ambassador to The Commonwealth of The Bahamas. On November 14, 2007, Ambassador Siegel presented his credentials to Governor General His Excellency Arthur D. Hanna.

Appointed fourteen months ago by President George W. Bush, Ambassador Siegel has worked closely with the Government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas to further strengthen bilateral relations and advance several key initiatives. Ambassador and Mrs. Siegel succeeded in meeting the President’s vision of strengthening the bond between our two nations common values and beliefs.

Ambassador Siegel’s support of programs such as OPBAT and Enduring Friendship was key to assisting The Bahamas in interdicting the movement of illegal drugs and migrants. Through his leadership he ensured that continuity of service was maintained as OPBAT aviation assets transitioned from the U.S. Army to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). As part of his support for Enduring Friendship, Ambassador Siegel presented four patrol boats valued at over \$3.3 million to the Royal Bahamas Defense Force in August 2008. In addition, Ambassador Siegel led efforts to improve U.S. Coast Guard and Bahamian facilities on the island of Great Inagua.

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Ambassador Siegel strongly advocated the creation of business opportunities in The Bahamas. In July 2008, he coordinated a two-day Alternative Energy Conference, a region-wide effort to raise awareness and generate opportunities for effective renewable energy programs to the Caribbean. In March 2008, he led a delegation of Bahamian Government officials and

stakeholders in the New Providence Downtown Redevelopment Project to tour Delray Beach, Florida where they engaged in productive dialogue and opened doors for future projects.

Through Ambassador Siegel's efforts to forge connections between our two countries, the office of the Attorney General invited a group of U.S.-based legal and criminal justice experts, led by a prominent Florida judge, to The Bahamas in June 2008. Ambassador Siegel brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including community groups, churches, schools, NGO's and government representatives during the three day visit. This event proved to be an important step in the passage of an anti-crime package that included much needed plea bargaining legislature.

Ambassador Siegel successfully articulated the need to further strengthen U.S. Government presence in The Bahamas by initiating the process of a New Embassy Compound (NEC). Although constructing a new Embassy will occur several years after his departure, Ambassador Siegel was personally involved in convincing the U.S. Department of State to initiate this process. A multi-million dollar real estate development project, constructing a new Embassy is testament to the vision Ambassador Siegel had for the growth and future relationship of our two countries. In addition to the construction of a tangible new workplace, Ambassador Siegel's legacy will be remembered in the creation of a closer mission community that focuses on teamwork and positive interpersonal relationships, creating an even more effective partnership between our two nations.

Ambassador Siegel worked tirelessly on social and health issues during his tenure. In October 2008 the "Read to Lead" initiative was launched as a partnership initiative between the Ministry of Education and the U.S. Embassy. The national program is geared to strengthen reading and literacy skills in students in grades 4 through 6 and is underway in New

Providence, Grand Bahama, Abaco, Cat Island and Eleuthera.

In both 2007 and 2008 Ambassador Siegel awarded local organizations grants totaling \$25,000 to help in the fight against HIV/AIDS in The Bahamas.



Ambassador Siegel and his wife Stephanie were instrumental in the launch of The Bahamas Breast Cancer Initiative (BBCI). The BBCI was created to raise awareness about the importance of education and early detection and elevate the standard of cancer screening and care in The Bahamas. At the invitation of the Ambassador and his wife, Susan G. Komen for the Cure joined the Bahamas Breast Cancer Initiative partnership, in association with the Cancer Society of The Bahamas to sponsor the "Stride for Life" walk held last November.

Ambassador and Mrs. Siegel are leaving a legacy in a very tangible way – the BBCI will support clinical research trials that could reveal the underlying causes that lead to the alarming number of breast cancer cases in young women in The Bahamas.

Ambassador Siegel, on behalf of the U.S. Government, wishes to thank the people and the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas for their contributions to our bilateral relationship. Through a joint effort, the United States and The Bahamas have accomplished many mutual goals, including: combating international crime, drugs and illegal migrants; preventing and responding to terrorism; fostering economic growth and development; and facilitation of travel between our countries while ensuring the security of both borders.

Ambassador and Mrs. Siegel will return to their home in Boca Raton, Florida. Ambassador Siegel will continue his career in real estate and business while volunteering time to personally important civic, Jewish, educational and political causes.

Trade Shows

International Franchise Expo, March 20-22, 2009, Washington, D.C.

The U.S. Embassy pleased to announce that it is organizing a delegation to attend the upcoming 18th Annual International Franchise Expo. This event will be held March 20-22, 2009 at the



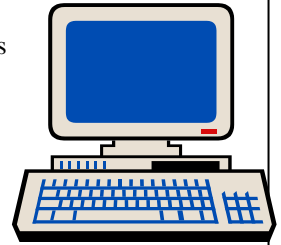
Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington D.C. This is an invitation for you to join this group. There are a number of benefits available to individuals travelling with the delegation, including: complimentary admission; 50% discount off Symposia; invitation to the private International Cocktail Reception on Friday, March 20th; invitation to International Visitor/ Exhibitor Reception on Saturday, March 21st; the results of the Matchmaking Survey indicating which IFE 2009 exhibitors are interested in the Bahamian market; use of International Business Center; assistance in setting up pre-show meetings and appointments during the event. **If you would like to join the delegation please contact Tenniel Newton in the Commercial Section at 322-1181 ext 4227 by February 20, 2009.**

Website: www.FranchiseExpo.com.

Moda Manhattan February 22-24th, 2009, New York, NY. Moda Manhattan provides a concise mix of carefully juried RTW designed to meet the needs of RTW buyers of better bridge and designer collections. The shows' well-merchandised floor and its intimate, made-to-order ambiance brings to mind the elegance of fine showrooms coupled with the best amenities and visual display. Replete with every category in demand, Moda Manhattan's 2009 exhibit floor is a must see. **Website:**

www.modamanhattan.com. **Contact:** Business Journals Inc. 203-853-6015.

Graphics of the Americas Feb 26-28th, 2009, Miami, FL. Produced and managed by the Printing Association of Florida, The Annual Graphics of the Americas will feature the very latest in automated workflow solutions and other graphic communications products. More than 1,450 exhibits of leading manufacturers and suppliers demonstrating exciting new products from design, computer publishing and electronic pre-press, presses, digital printing presses and accessories, binding, folding and finishing equipment. Website:



www.graphicsoftheamericas.com,

Contact: Laurie Olszewski, Tel: 407-240-8009 ext. 136.

New York International and Food Service, March 1-3rd, 2009, New York, NY. The Show is an annual gathering of international foodservice industry professionals, and will feature 105,000 square feet of exhibits and special events. 18,732 industry professionals attended the 2004 event including owners/operators for restaurants and foodservice



establishments, chefs and buyers from cafes, fast food establishments, cafeterias, hotels/motels, and bars/nightclubs/lounges. Attendees will be able to visit over 1,000 exhibits, and the Show floor will feature pavilions including, International Pastry, Gourmet Food, Healthy Food, Pizza, Hotel/Motel, Beer, Wine, & Spirits, Coffee & Tea, and the NEW Restaurant Design Pavilion. Early registration just \$30 before January 30, 2009, \$50 after. **Website:** www.appcluster09.com. **Contact:** Show Manager 203-840-5392.

Manufacturing Jewelers & Suppliers of America March 8-10th, 2009, New York, NY. More than 5,000 buyers view the best component parts, machinery, tools, finished jewelry, packaging, and service providers



that the jewelry industry has to offer. MJSA's Expo New York is the largest trade show in the United States featuring the latest in jewelry manufacturing supplies, machinery, components, services and finished product all under one roof. There will be more than 350 booths, a full roster of technical seminars, and an annual social event where our exhibitors and attendees can network with colleagues from all around the world. **Website:** www.expo-newyork.com/expoNY.php. **Contact:** Bruce Coltin 401-427-1273.

International Home and Housewares Show, March 22-24, 2009, Chicago, IL.

This is the world's largest "home and housewares" marketplace, where 1,800 exhibiting companies will showcase thousands of new products and designs to more than 60,000 attendees. The show will include the Gourmet Home and Food District featuring products from the



gourmet food industry and Patio park featuring products focusing on outdoor living. Other categories include Dine and Design featuring the finest products for cooking and entertaining, Clean and Contain featuring tools for cleaning and home organization and Wired & Well featuring electrical and home healthcare products. The U.S. Embassy will be organizing a delegation to attend this event. **Contact:** U.S. Embassy Commercial Section 322-1181 ext. 4227 by February 20, 2009.

Miami Home Design and Remodeling Show, March 27-30th, 2009, Miami, FL.

The Home Design & Remodeling Shows feature fine home furniture, accessories, remodeling, interior design, kitchens and baths, appliances, home theaters, home

improvements, pools and spas, patios, landscaping, and an array of products and services for the interior and exterior of the home . . . all under one roof. **Website:** <http://www.homeshow.net>. **Contact:** Home Show Management Corp. 305-667-9299



Embassy Planned Trade Events

Business Education and Development Seminar, March 31, 2009, Nassau, N.P.

This event is being promoted by the U.S. Embassy in conjunction with the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Commercial Section at Tel: 323-7180.

For further information on trade shows please contact the Commercial Section.



CONSUMER TIP

Energy Saving tips for the Winter

Cutting back unnecessary energy use is an easy way to keep your hard earned money in your pocket. Here are some suggestions you can do at home, at absolutely no cost to you.

Let the sunshine in. Open drapes and let the sun heat your home for free (get them closed again at sundown so they help insulate).

Rearrange your rooms. Move your furniture around so you are sitting near interior walls - exterior walls and older windows are likely to be drafty. Don't sit in the draft.

Eliminate wasted energy. Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms. Unplug that spare refrigerator in the garage if you don't truly need it - this seemingly convenient way to keep extra drinks cold adds 10-25 percent to your electric bill. Turn off kitchen and bath-ventilating fans after they've done their job - these fans can blow out a house-full of heated air if inadvertently left on.

Shorten showers. Simply reducing that lingering time by a few minutes can save hundreds of gallons of hot water per month for a family of four. Showers account for 2/3 of your water heating costs. Cutting your showers in half will reduce your water heating costs by 33 percent.

Use appliances efficiently. Do only full loads when using your dishwasher and clothes washer. Use the cold water setting on your clothes washer when you can. Using cold water reduces your washer's energy use by 75 percent. Be sure to clean your clothes dryer's lint trap after each use. Use the moisture-sensing automatic drying setting on your dryer if you have one.

Put your computer and monitor to sleep. Most computers come with the power

management features turned off. On computers using Windows, open your power management software and set it so your computer goes to sleep if you're away from your machine for 5 to 15 minutes. Those who use Macintosh computers look for the setting in your Control Panels called "Energy Saver" and set it accordingly. When you're done using your computer, turn it off (see next tip). Do not leave it in sleep mode overnight as it is still drawing a small amount of power.

Plug "leaking energy" in electronics. Many new TVs, VCRs, chargers, computer peripherals and other electronics use electricity even when they are switched "off." Although these "standby losses" are only a few watts each, they add up to more than 50 watts in a typical home that is consumed all the time. If possible, unplug electronic devices and chargers that have a block-shaped transformer on the plug when they are not in use. For computer scanners, printers and other devices that are plugged into a power strip, simply switch off the power strip after shutting down your computer.

Taken from The Consumer Energy Center. For more energy-saving tips visit www.consumerenergycentre.org/tips



The Commercial Section plans to distribute future issues of the Commercial News electronically and would appreciate receiving your Email address at rollenewtonti@state.gov or by phoning 323-7180. Thank